

from the neighbouring islands removed the smaller bones as mementos, but the vertebral column had been left practically intact. The two lower jaw bones were so large that some people were discussing the suitability of their being carved into dugout canoes. With the help of an axe Mr. Singh was able to separate three of the vertebrate to adorn three places, namely, the Sagar lighthouse, the Mud Point telegraph office and the Namkhana post-office. While the first two were subsequently removed by some visiting officials, the one at Namkhana, which appears to be one of the anterior caudal vertebrae (probably the fourth or fifth), is still preserved as stated above.

It is difficult to identify the whale, except by circumstantial evidence. The numerous black plates in the mouth of the whale seen by Mr. Singh place it as a baleen whale. Large-sized whales hitherto recorded as stranded on the Indian Coasts are usually baleen whales which include the Great Blue Whale or Great Rorqual (*Balaenoptera musculus* Linnaeus=*Balaenoptera indica* Blyth) and the Little Piked Whale or Lesser Rorqual (*B. acutorostrata* Lacepede=*B. edeni* Anderson). From the size of the bone and the general description the whale, stranded at Jambudwip appears to be the former.

Mr. Singh stated that the whale was more than 40 ft. long, but an old employee of the post-office at Namkhana who had also seen it said that it was 64 ft. From the size of a third caudal vertebra (14 in. long and 16.5 in. wide from side to side) of a Great Blue Whale, 84 ft. in length (stranded on Amherst Island on the Arakan Coast in 1851) exhibited in the Indian Museum, Calcutta, it is possible to confirm 64 ft. as a near estimate of length of the whale stranded at Jambudwip, if the presumption regarding the species is correct.

CENTRAL INLAND FISHERIES RESEARCH STATION,
BARRACKPORE,
January 7, 1953.

S. JONES

REFERENCES

1. Moses, S. T. (1948) : *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **47** (2) : 377-379.
2. Pillai, N. G. (1949) : *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **48** (2) : 358.
3. Gibson-Hill, C. A. (1950) : *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **49** (1) : 14-19.

9. A NOTE ON THE DHOLPUR WILD LIFE SANCTUARY, RAJASTHAN

(With a sketch map and two plates)

Brief History

The beginning of the Wild Life Sanctuary in Dholpur State dates from the period of regency of General Dennehy during the minority of the Maharana Nihal Singh who succeeded in 1873.

At that time in the so-called Ban Bihar Forest there was a sacred place known as Sātkarāi 'where seven sadhus stayed for 50 years'. The place was used also as a spot for religious pilgrimage and remains

well-known in the area to this day. The seven sadhus objected to killing animals in the forest on religious grounds, and it is believed that the idea of the first sanctuary (known at present as Sātkarāi Sanctuary) originated thus.

Maharaj Nihal Singh and Col. Clageston (regent of the former's successor) made further improvements and another area was made into a sanctuary after the creation of an artificial lake by building a dam on the river Banganga in 1904. The present Maharaja Rana of Dholpur developed the area round Kesarbagh Palace into a third sanctuary and made many other improvements in the existing Rām Sāgar and Sātakarāi Sanctuaries by building walls, good roads, blocking nullahs, etc.

Physical aspects

(a) *Area*: The largest of three sanctuaries is the Rām Sāgar Sanctuary which, including the lake, occupies an area approximately 12 sq. miles. Second in size is the Sātkarāi Sanctuary of approximately 6 sq. miles. The smallest is the Kesarbagh Sanctuary of approximately 2 sq. miles.

(b) *Situation and access*: All the three sanctuaries are within easy reach of the town of Dholpur and from the Agra trunk road. The distances are as follows:

Dholpur to Rām Sāgar	... 20 miles
Dholpur to Sātkarāi	... 12 ,,
Dholpur to Kesarbagh	... 7 ,,

There are good metalled and motorable roads leading to each of the sanctuaries. Inside the boundaries of the sanctuaries there are circular roads and cross vistas cut in the forest so that easy observation of the animals is made possible.

(c) *Soil*: The soil for the most part is a mixture of sand and clay, and is poor everywhere. Rām Sāgar and Sātkarāi Sanctuaries are partly situated on a range of hills which runs parallel to the Chambal River and is elevated 1,000-1,100 ft. above sea level. This ridge is mainly rocky, made of sandstone, with a depth of soil nowhere exceeding 4-6 in. The average rainfall is 28 in. in the year.

The soil inside the limits of the sanctuaries is not suitable for cultivation and there is no human habitation for miles around.

The sanctuaries are of course not an exception, because most of the surrounding area is barren and only 57% of the country is cultivated. The density of population is small only 249 per sq. mile, including the population of towns.

(d) *Water*: The sanctuaries have been provided with water by blocking the perennial streams and rivers. The largest lake is situated in the Rām Sāgar Sanctuary and occupies an area of approximately 3 sq. miles.

(e) *Vegetation*: The soil being poor, most of the forest grows around the lakes in the valley. Many good trees have been artificially planted and cared for. Most of the forest consists of small trees, bushes and shrubs which do not give any timber for construction and are suitable only as third grade firewood.